

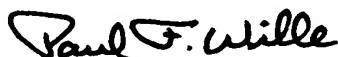
REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the notices mailed November 21, 2003. One notice concerned the claims. All claims are now presented in a single document. The undersigned apologizes for the inconvenience.

The second notice concerned the drawings. **Substitute** drawings are **not** being submitted. As noted in the previous amendment, these are **new** figures. It is respectfully submitted that requiring an inaccurate label, "Replacement Sheet(s)" confuses the record. Nevertheless, the drawings have been labeled "Replacement Sheet(s)" and are re-submitted with this preliminary amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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